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**SOUVENIR**

—OF—

**THE CITY OF ALPENA,**

—BY—

**WILLIAM BOULTON.**



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1893.



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CITY OF ALPENA, FROM MASONIC BLOCK.

(From a Photograph by Wm. Boulton.)

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## CITY OF ALPENA.



ALPENA, truly named "The Carlsbad of America," is a lively, energetic and magnificently located city of 15,000 inhabitants, delightfully situated on the shore of that famed harbor, Thunder Bay, in the northeastern part of the lower peninsula of Michigan.

Thunder Bay River divides the city into two parts. This river is navigable for vessels drawing twelve feet of water, for a distance of a mile from the mouth of the river, to the dam, and forms a large inner harbor, with two miles of wharfage. On the bay shore of the city, wharves can be cheaply built, at which vessels can lay safely during any storm. Alpena has the best harbor on the Great Lakes. It is easy of access: it is free from dangerous shoals, and the bay affords safe anchorage for thousands of vessels. The situation of Alpena, as a lake port, and for the purpose of commerce, is not excelled by any city on the Great Inland Seas.

The city of Alpena was incorporated in 1871, at which time she had less than 3,000 inhabitants. Her territory comprises nearly 4,000 acres, and has a frontage on the bay of three miles. The most of the land within the city limits is but a few feet above the level of the bay waters, and is free from marshes or swamps. About three sections have been platted into lots, most of which contain one-fifth of

an acre each. The business portion of the city is on both sides of the river, near the mouth, while the resident portion extends along the bay shore for two miles, and back from the shore over a mile. Alpena has over 2,000 residences, over 100 brick business places, brick and stone High School that cost \$40,000, an elegant brick opera house, two fine stone churches, five brick churches, five wooden churches, brick court house, stone jail, brick county poor house, a fine magnetic sulphur spring bath house, one daily and three weekly newspapers, three job printing offices, twelve lumber mills, four shingle mills, one sulphite paper pulp factory, one hemlock bark extract factory, one stave mill, one spool factory, two foundries and machine shops, one roller process flour mill, four planing mills, one furniture factory, one marble works, three photograph galleries, two breweries, a large stone malt house, gas works, electric light works, Holly water works, telephone exchange, W. U. T. line, the famous Churchill house, which is not excelled by any hotel in the State, railroad communication, four lines of passenger steamboats, three from Detroit and one from Bay City, and a full supply of drug stores, grocery stores, dry goods and millinery establishments, boot and shoe stores, hardware houses, merchant tailoring establishments, book stores, furniture dealers and undertakers, U. S. fish hatchery, weather office, steam laundries, bottling works, harness shops, carriage factories, livery stables, and many other business enterprises.

As regards societies, Alpena has two F. and A. M. lodges, Royal Arch Masons, Royal and Select Masons, Knights Templar, I. O. O. F. lodges, five tents of the K. O. T. M., a number of hives of the L. O. T. M., the A. O. U. W., Foresters, National Union, A. O. H., Woodmen of the World, Knights of St. John and St. Jean de Baptiste, a post of the G. A. R., a company of the State troops, and many other social organizations.

The religious denominations consist of the following, all of which have churches: Episcopal, Congregational, three Catholic societies, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Norwegian and Lutheran. The

various churches are worth from five to forty thousand dollars each, and four are beautiful structures. The Y. M. C. A. has a parlor, gymnasium, reading room, play room, bath room, etc., and a membership of over 200.

The streets of the city, with few exceptions, run at right angles, and the total length of open graded streets is 63 miles. The sidewalks are built by the city and have a length of 48 miles. Tile sewers extend all over the city, thoroughly draining the resident part, and preventing stagnant pools to breed disease. A city as enterprising as Alpena, must have paved streets, and there are six miles of the principal streets paved with cedar blocks, and half a mile with crushed stone. In the business portion the streets are paved full width, and 24 feet wide in other places. A small portion of the sidewalks are of artificial stone.

The water works supply water both for domestic and fire purposes, and are owned by a stock company, composed of citizens. Two set of pumps are used. The system is the Holly, and the fire pressure is furnished by the pumps. For fire purposes it is not surpassed by any in the State. All that is necessary is to telephone the engineer, attach the hose to a hydrant, and the water is furnished with sufficient power to reach the top of any building in the city. Twenty streams, of great power, can be used at one time. On the bay shore, in the Sixth ward, are the steam pumps for supplying water from the bay for domestic purposes, and at the dam are powerful rotary pumps, run by water power, that furnish the high pressure streams. There are 22 miles of water mains, 200 fire hydrants, two hose companies, and, in addition, there are two steam fire engines, but are seldom needed. The amount of water pumped during the year 1892, was 587,267,320 gallons.

The Gas Company have four and one-half miles of mains, and the plant is valued at \$60,000. Its great competitor is electricity. The Electric Light Company have an extensive plant. Like the gas and

water, it is an Alpena corporation, owned and controlled by citizens. Both the arc and incandescent lights are used. The former is mostly used for lighting the streets, and the latter for business places, churches and private residences. There are 75 arc lights used and 1,700 incandescent lamps. The Brush system is used for the arc lights and the Thompson-Housen for the incandescent.

Banking business is attended to by the Alpena National Bank and the Comstock Bros' bank. The published statement of the national bank has shown deposits of over \$350,000, which serves to indicate the amount of business done.

Communication between the two sides of the river is maintained by three bridges—a steel swing bridge, a steel fixed bridge and a wooden bridge. Their value is \$25,000.

The telephone exchange has wires running all over the city, and 170 telephones are in constant use.

Two mails arrive daily by rail, and four letter carriers distribute the mail about the city. In 1892, the post office receipts amounted to \$9,653.38. The number of stamps sold was: One cent, 26,913; two cent, 291,164; postal cards, 34,694, and over 80,000 stamped envelopes. The money order department issued 501 foreign money orders; 3,297 domestic orders, and 1,951 postal notes.

The number of children of school age in the city is 4,233. To accommodate the scholars there are the Central school building and six ward school buildings, besides which the St. Bernard Catholic society have a large and beautiful stone school house. The public school property is valued at \$79,500.

During the year 1892, the passenger steamers calling at this port made 353 round trips, of which 144 were between Bay City and Alpena, and 209 between Detroit and St. Ignace—the Detroit steamers calling at this port on the way up and down.

Each season about 3,000 vessels enter and clear from the port of Alpena, and these vessels exported in 1892, from this port, the following products: Lumber, 172,900,000 feet; lath, 50,351,000; shingles,

25,500,000; cedar posts, 481,000; railway ties, 563,000; tamarack pond net stakes, 1,763; cords of cedar, 125. From this port there were also shipped, partly by vessel and partly by rail, the following: Sulphite paper pulp, 7,121,445 pounds; hemlock bark extract, 6,000 barrels; excelsior, 700 tons; fish, 700 tons; gross of spools, 185,000; gill net floats, 100,000; huckleberries and blackberries, 2,000 bushels; several hundred bushels of plums and crab apples, and several hundred cords of building and lime stone.

Alpena is a busy seaport during the navigation season. At times the river harbor is alive with great steamships, magnificent palace steamers, majestic sailing vessels, barges and tugs, and some of the busiest weeks 10,000,000 feet of lumber are exported in addition to other products.





CITY OF ALPENA, FROM CITY HALL.

(From a Photograph by Wm. Boulton.)

## HISTORICAL.



ALPENA has no ancient history or ivy covered ruins of former greatness. She is a modern city, and a lively and progressing one. Her remarkable rise, from the wilderness to her present proud position of metropolis of the northern portion of the lower peninsula of Michigan, is yet fresh in the memories of many of her present inhabitants. To-day she is a living monument testifying truly to the energy, perseverance, industry and good government of her sons.

Thirty years ago her lots and streets were covered with forests of pine and other woods. A few Indians roamed about the tract. Thunder Bay river ran swiftly by to the bay—its waters clear and sparkling, as they did not then, as they now do, have to force a passage through many miles of log jams. Fish in countless numbers swam about the clear waters. Solitude reigned through countless years.

The skirmishers of American civilization, the trapper of furs and the fur buyer arrived. He was closely followed by the hardy fisherman, who discovered that the waters of Thunder Bay and adjoining shores of Lake Huron were alive with the delicious trout and whitefish. The enterprising and energetic lumbermen then appeared on the scene, and in 1859, began to lay the foundation of Alpena's prosperity. Lumber mills were erected, the woodman's axe resounded in the woods, and soon the great lumber manufacturing industry was created. Houses and business places were erected. Land was platted. Streets were laid out. Churches and school houses were constructed, and in a few years a young city, full of life and vigor, had replaced the forests. As the inhabitants increased in wealth they began to build finer

residences. The earlier school houses, churches and public buildings were replaced with better, more commodious and more beautiful edifices. Shade trees were planted along the streets, that, to-day, so greatly beautify the public thoroughfares and give so grateful a shade to the pedestrian as he strolls along the walks. Miles upon miles of tile drains were laid. Gardens were planted. Pretty lawns laid out. Then came a demand for paved streets. Laborers were set to work, and to-day there are nearly six miles of the principal streets paved with cedar blocks. Electricity reached out its hand and then Alpena was bound to the rest of the world with the telegraph wire. Then came the telephone and brought the business community in close communion, and was closely followed by the electric light. Steamboat men found it was profitable business to run their palace steamers to Alpena, and the business has been so lucrative that four lines of steamers now run regularly to the city. But these were not sufficient to satisfy the people of Alpena, and in 1886 a railroad line was extended to the city.

Alpena is a city of homes; a city of gardens; a city of churches; a city remarkable for its pure and invigorating atmosphere, and it is fast becoming a city of beautiful maple shade trees, of pretty lawns, and fine residences. All these thousands of houses, hundreds of brick blocks, miles of streets and sidewalk, churches, school houses and public buildings have been obtained in exchange for the pine, cedar, fish and stone, and more too, for while this great work has been done and this flourishing city erected, the energetic sons and daughters of Alpena have lived well, have enjoyed all the comforts of life and many of the luxuries, while a few have accumulated great fortunes. It has been a good exchange, and Alpena people have reaped a rich harvest from their pine forests. But best of all hundreds of laboring men own the pretty homes they dwell in, and it is the proud boast of the people of Alpena that more laboring men own houses and lots than can be found in any other city in proportion to the number of inhabitants. All these public improvements have been made on a cash basis. The paved streets, extensive

tile sewerage, school buildings and other public edifices do not represent a large bonded indebtedness that the future citizens will have to pay. It is nearly all paid for. The city financial statement, made in April, 1893, tells the gratifying and highly commendable story. It shows the financial condition of the city of Alpena is not excelled by any city in the State. The only city bonds ever issued were for the construction of the fine steel bridge, between Second and Dock streets. Of those bonds only six thousand dollars remain unpaid. The floating debt caused mostly by paving and tile draining and the building of the fixed steel bridge at Ninth street, and the beautiful Central school house, amounted to \$26,692.06, and made the entire debt of the city of Alpena, March 1st, 1893, amount to a little less than \$33,000. To offset the debt there were in the city treasurer's hands nearly \$10,000, besides a large amount of taxes uncollected. Alpena has but very little debt, while as a credit, in addition to the items above stated, she has school houses valued at \$79,500; bridges worth \$25,000; a public library valued at \$3,000; cedar pavement to the amount of \$67,000; stone pavement worth \$1,300; fire department apparatus and engine houses valued at \$16,000; sewers worth \$55,000. The total value of the city property was estimated by the Comptroller, in his report for the spring of 1893, at \$261,000. Can any city in the United States make a better financial showing?

The assessed valuation of Alpena city, in the year 1892, was \$3,923,968, and its real cash value to-day is at least six millions of dollars. All this great value has been created during the last 35 years. In addition to the great wealth accumulated by the unceasing toil and industry of the sons and daughters of Alpena, they have well enjoyed the past years. They have been bountifully fed; they have been well entertained; the younger generations have been well educated; life has been a pleasant one in the city, and no one can truly say that the people of Alpena have not been provident and have built a city wisely, beautifully and free from debt. The pioneers of Alpena have done their duty, and they leave to their sons and daughters an inheritance of great value.



CORNER OF WASHINGTON AVENUE AND FIRST STREET.

(From a Photograph by Wm. Boulton.)

# ALPENA AS A HEALTH AND PLEASURE RESORT.



AS A pleasure and health resort, the northern part of the lower peninsula of Michigan has, during the past few years, become noted for its excellence. Each succeeding year brings a larger number of tourists to pass the summer months. The steamers that run from Detroit to Alpena and St. Ignace have not been able to accommodate all who desired to make the pleasant and invigorating voyage up what is termed "The Shore." During the excursion season, comprising about three months of the year, those who desired to make a trip on either of the fine palace steamers that called at the port of Alpena, eight times every week, had to engage their staterooms weeks in advance, at Detroit. Trip after trip these magnificent steamers not only had every stateroom occupied, but a large number of cots had to be provided to accommodate the crowd aboard. In fact, the number of people who made the pleasant summer voyage was dependent upon the amount that could be carried by the steamers. The great demand for staterooms caused the enterprising Detroit & Cleveland Steam Navigation Co. to build, during the winter of 1892-3, two of the largest and most magnificent steel steamers on the Great Lakes, capable of comfortably carrying twice as many passengers as the old steamers could do. The new palace steamers are remarkably fast ones, being able to steam 20 miles per hour, and having every appliance for the safety and comfort of passengers.

The city of Alpena is right in the heart of this favored pleasure and health resort region, so justly celebrated for its pure atmosphere, invigorating and health-giving breezes, and best of all, for summer

time, its refreshing, cool evenings and nights. Here the tired and worn out business man can enjoy a week or two of needed rest to recuperate his wearied mind. Here the invalid can get a restful sleep and strengthen a weakened system. Here the tired devotee of society can regain the lost vigor and cast off the weariness caused by months of hard and physically wearying toil, experienced by those who are the slaves of fashion.

To such Alpena offers great inducements. A healthy climate, cool, invigorating, ozone laden summer breezes, cool evenings and nights, pleasant drives about the city, good society, all the modern improvements, except street cars, and they are not yet an actual necessity, as the distances between the hotels, business places, depot and Opera House are not great. A few miles north of the city lies that beautiful inland sheet of water known as Long Lake. Fifty minutes' drive will take a person from the heart of the city to the southerly part of the lake. A person can go to the lake on a bicycle in forty minutes, as there are good carriage roads leading to it. The lake is about ten miles long, and from one to two wide. The fishing and boating is equal to any lake in Michigan. During the summer season it is a favorite resort for Alpena people, and camping and picnic parties are numerous, and give great pleasure to those who attend them. Five miles from the city, in Thunder Bay, is a large island, known as Sulphur Island, and is easily reached from Alpena. A day there with a picnic party can be very pleasantly passed. At the east of North Point, and about twelve miles from Alpena, lay, amid the clear waters of that majestic inland ocean, Lake Huron, a group of pretty islands, the outmost one of which is owned by the United States government, and is called Thunder Bay Island. Located on the island is the Thunder Bay Island Life-Saving Station and Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse. A trip to the island on a bright summer day makes one of the most pleasant excursions that a pleasure tourist can desire. The life-saving men usually give an exhibition of the manner in which they rescue lives from wrecked vessels, and the exhibition

will be greatly enjoyed. A visit to the lighthouse is also well worth the trip across the island. Steamers and vessels are passing up and down the lake at all times. There are many other interesting places well worth seeing, and the pleasure tourist can pass two or three weeks in a delightful manner, combining pleasure with recreation. A visit to the great lumber mills will prove an interesting trip, and the visitor will be amazed at the wonderful manner that the machinery eats up logs. About one thousand logs make a daily meal for the big circulars, gangs and band saws in a mill. A few hundred yards from the hotel the visitor can see the method of sorting and rafting logs. In the early part of the season the immense log piles, containing many millions of feet of saw logs, can be seen, and will be an object of great interest to those who are not familiar with lumbering scenes. The log piles, or rollways, as they are termed, are but little over one mile distant from the business portion of the city. Take a drive up the banks of Thunder Bay river, and you will be amazed at the immense amount of logs you see. The river for 20 miles is full of logs.

The city of Alpena contains many objects of interest to visitors, and the visitor need not be a millionaire who comes to the city, as charges for rooms and meals are reasonable. Fashion has not yet set her high priced edict to forbid the visit of persons of moderate means.

To the invalid, Alpena offers a choice prize in her famed magnetic sulphur spring water, but of that great healer the next chapter shall tell the truthful history.



FIRST STREET SULPHUR SPRING CO. BATH HOUSE.

(From a Photograph by Wm. Boulton)

## THE MAGNETIC SULPHUR SPRING.



IN THE year 1869 a number of Alpena people were possessed with the salt fever, and a company was organized to drill a well down into the earth for several hundred feet, and tap the salt deposit that was believed to be under the city. At a depth of about 900 feet a vein of water was struck that was possessed of a strong odor, and had wonderful magnetic qualities. A knife blade held in the water became strongly magnetized. The magnetic vein was regarded more as a curiosity than as of great value, and its wonderful healing power on rheumatic diseases was not known. In 1870 persons afflicted with rheumatism were induced to bathe in the water that flowed out of the well. The immediate result was relief from torture that rheumatic persons endure. A course of baths for a few weeks completely cured persons of their rheumatic disease.

The attention of those financially interested in the well was then turned toward making a practical use of the great healing waters. A bath house was erected, and a fine hotel, the well known Fletcher House, was built, furnished and opened to the public. A slight attempt was made to advertise the curative properties of the mineral waters. Many people came to town, and many sufferers derived great benefit from bathing in the water.

Alpena at that time was not in a condition to be made into a health or pleasure resort. She had neither railroad communication or good lines of steamboats. Not a foot of the streets had been paved. There were no amusements or recreations for tourists. The citizens had not much time for leisure. To get to Alpena or to leave it in the summer season was uncertain, and depended upon the weather. In

fact the enterprise was at least 12 years too soon, and thus the attendance at the bath house and hotel was not large enough to pay expenses. In winter season the only manner of communication between Alpena and the nearest railroad, distant 150 miles, was by stage, and when roads were bad five days' time were required to make the journey. With all these difficulties to contend against, it is not to be wondered at that the enterprise was not a financial success, besides those who furnished the funds to drill and pipe the well, and erect the bath house and hotel, needed their money to carry on the lumber business they were engaged in.

The well was drilled near where the Huron Lumber Co. mill is, on River street, not far from the city hall. In a few years the mineral water had destroyed the iron pipe, and the famous well became partially filled up with fallen rock. The Fletcher House was closed, and the mineral well and resort became a piece of history.

For about 12 years following, the people of Alpena kept vigorously at work. The lumber business was made a vast one. The agricultural interests of the county were developed. The city was immensely improved. Streets were paved. A railroad was extended to the city. Palace steamers that made their calls with the regularity of an express train, ran to the city. The Fletcher House was replaced by a much grander one, the well known Churchill. Modern improvements appeared, and Alpena became well known as one of the finest places in Michigan, as a pleasant summer resort. It was accomplished without booming or advertising, beyond what the local papers did, and a few pamphlets. The people of Alpena had built and improved the city for their own personal benefit, and they did the work so well that it attracted the attention of people from other places, and who found Alpena a pleasant city to pass a few weeks in during the warm season.

In the year 1891 energetic business men of the city decided the time had come to again tap the

healing spring, flowing hundreds of feet beneath the city. A company was organized of citizens, and shares of stock to the amount of \$30,000 were quickly subscribed. One-half the stock was taken by men of moderate means, in one and two hundred dollar shares. The balance was subscribed by the rich men of the city. A fine site was purchased, occupying half a block, with First street in front, and Water and River streets on the sides. On the front is a large and beautiful grove of shade trees. On that site was erected as pretty, well arranged and elegantly furnished a bath house as can be found in the State. It is close to the business center of the city. The steamboat wharves are near by. The depot is but a few blocks distant. In front, across the street, is that elegant hotel, the Churchill, while the Golling House, a very pleasant hotel, is near by. The bath house is open the entire year, and all kinds of baths can be obtained. The bath house has parlors, office, reception rooms, warm rooms, and the bath rooms are large and well lighted. An experienced physician is in charge. The company is known as the Alpena Sulphur Spring Co., and to date it has expended on building, sinking and piping well and improving and beautifying the grounds, the sum of \$40,000.

The work of drilling the well commenced on the 30th of October, 1891, and on the 12th of February, 1892, the work was completed and salt rock reached. The total depth of the well is 1,267 feet, and the time occupied in drilling was 2,025½ hours. The well was commenced with a diameter of seven inches, and at 588 feet deep was reduced to five inches and nine-sixteenths. At a depth of 936 feet the diameter of the well was reduced to five inches. The first strong stream of water was found at a depth of 489 feet; a second at 570 feet; a third at 590 feet; a fourth at 598 feet, and a fifth at 605 feet. The flow of water was then so tremendous that other streams struck were not noticed. The water found at and above 605 feet is strongly tinctured with sulphur, but does not contain the magnetic quality. The magnetic water is found at a depth of 700 feet. Considerable difficulty was experienced in stationing

the pipe at the right place, so as to get the magnetic water as free as possible from other streams, but after much changing of the pipe it was satisfactorily placed. By means of the iron piping, three different streams of water are obtained from the famous well. The first contains the stream above 588 feet, and is not remarkable for its mineral properties, and may be termed ordinary drinking water. The second stream is from that part of the well between 588 feet and 700 feet, and is very strongly flavored with sulphur. These two streams are not unpleasant to drink. The third is the magnetic stream. The water of the second stream rushes out of the pipe with great velocity, and the pressure is equal to that of a fire hydrant with fire pressure.

Prof. W. F. Edwards, of the school of Pharmacy of the State University of Michigan, gives the following analysis of the water: Sodiac carbonate, 0.0283; sodic chloride, 4.835; magnetic chloride, 1.3417; sodic sulphide, 0.4812; calcic sulphate, 3.1314; hydric sulphide gas, 0.1267.

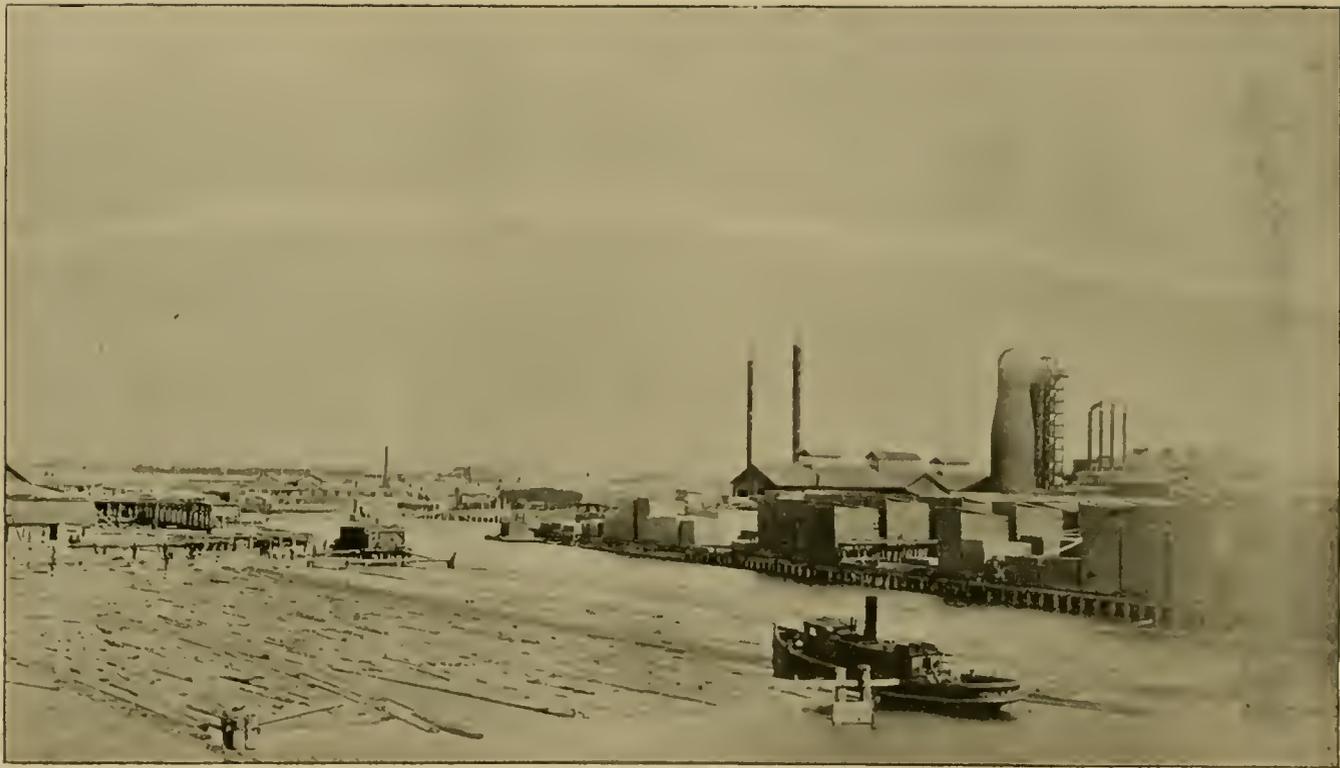
The price of baths has been placed at reasonable rates. For 1893 the charge is as follows: Plain magnetic bath, 50; magnetic bath with attendant, 75 cents; all other baths, \$1.





LOG PILE AT OX BOW, CITY OF ALPENA.

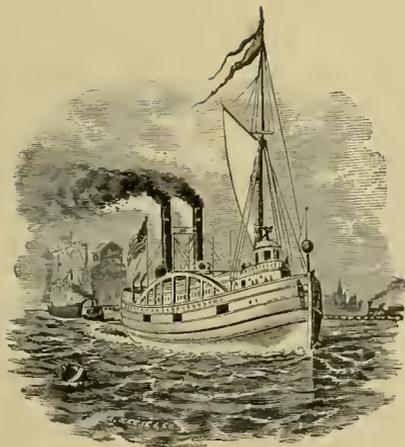
(From a Photograph by Wm. Boulton.)



ALBERT PACK'S LUMBER MILL. FLETCHER PAPER PULP FACTORY.

(From a Photograph by Wm. Boulton.)

## THE INDUSTRIES OF ALPENA.



THE business of manufacturing pine lumber, lath and shingles has been, and is to-day, the chief industry of Alpena. For years to come it will continue to be a large and lucrative industry, giving employment to hundreds of families. It has built up the city; it has been the chief agency in converting thousands of acres of wilderness into fertile farms, and, at present, thousands of people depend upon it for a living.

Years ago the bulk of the pine timber in the county had been converted into lumber. Enterprising mill men had secured immense tracts of pine in the adjoining counties, and for years past hundreds of millions of feet of pine logs were lumbered yearly in the forests of Presque Isle, Montmorency and Alcona counties, and floated down Thunder Bay river and branches, to the Alpena lumber mills. The railroad, which extended from Alpena to the back part of Alcona county, has brought in immense quantities of pine and cedar. Millions of feet of logs have been rafted from Lake Superior, Georgian Bay and Presque Isle county.

The important question now arises, how long will the pine industry last? The answer is, that it will last for many years to come. Hundreds of millions of feet of pine are yet owned by Alpena lumbermen in Presque Isle county, and that timber will come to this city by the northern extension of the Detroit, Bay City & Alpena railroad. Several hundred millions of feet of pine logs are yet to be floated

down Thunder Bay river. In the Georgian Bay region Alpena lumbermen own hundreds and hundreds of millions of feet of pine timber, and during the winter of 1892-3 the first lumbering operations commenced in that region, for getting out logs for the Alpena mills. These logs will be towed to Thunder Bay, boomed at White Fish Point, some three miles distant from the city, and rafted to the mills as they are needed.

The different pineries mentioned are capable of supplying the mills of Alpena for years to come, and thus the people are assured of the continuance of the great pine manufacturing industry, and the certainty that many hundreds of men will find employment in the lumber mills.

Pine constitutes only a portion of the vast forests of Alpena, but for many years after the first settlement began it was the only timber that had any commercial value. After a few years cedar began to become of value, and it has grown into a large and profitable industry. About one million pieces were got out in the vicinity of Alpena in the year 1892, and more will be shipped the present year. In the year 1887 G. N. Fletcher & Sons commenced operating their new sulphite paper pulp factory, and spruce, a wood that previously had been of no value, became one of the most valuable kinds of timber in the county. It makes the best kind of paper pulp, with an extra strong fibre; and since that year about 5,000 cords per year were sold to the pulp factory. Last winter the price paid, delivered at the factory, was \$4 per cord. The spool factory was the next new industry operated, and it made valuable birch wood that previously had but little value. The hemlock bark extract factory brought into market the large amount of hemlock timber in the county, and the excelsior factory provided a profitable use for basswood and poplar. Last year the stave works were built, and that created a great market for the elm timber. A few years ago all the value there was in maple was for firewood purposes, and a large amount of the finest birdseye maple was cut into cord wood. Now maple is known to be valuable for furniture purposes.

The forests of maple, beech, elm, hemlock, spruce, cedar, tamarack and other woods, in Alpena county, are immense, and the adjoining counties are as equally bountifully supplied. There is an immense amount of timber yet to come into market, and it will take the place of pine in creating and maintaining business.

Alpena has great advantages to offer to institutions that use hardwoods, and a better place can not be found for the erection of a large furniture manufacturing establishment. There is plenty of raw material. It can be readily got to the city, and the shipping facilities, in navigation season, are not surpassed by any city. In the winter the railroad furnishes as good shipping facilities as are possessed by many other towns.

There need be no doubt in regard to the bright future of Alpena. Nature has dealt out its choice gifts with a generous hand.





CENTRAL SCHOOL SECOND STREET.  
(From a Photograph by Wm. Coulton.)

## AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.



LESS THAN thirty years ago Alpena was but a wilderness. The inhabitants numbered but a few hundred, and not one of them could be classed as a real resident. Their sole object was to cut as quickly as possible the pine into lumber, catch what fish there were, and then leave for some other part of the country. Everything consumed as food was imported from other places, except fish and wild berries. A person who talked about growing farm and garden products in Alpena county, exposed himself to ridicule. The general belief was that agricultural products could not be raised in the county.

About the year 1864 some of the residents determined to test the question. Garden seeds and potatoes were planted, and the result was a genuine surprise to the people of the little town. The vegetables grown proved to be equal to any grown in the State of Michigan, and the fact was made clear that Alpena county was in the finest potato and vegetable section of the country, and, to-day, this region is celebrated for the superior excellence of the potatoes, cabbage, celery, beets, tomatoes, turnips, cauliflower, onions, lettuce, and all other kinds of vegetables common to the temperate zone.

The success that attended the efforts at raising vegetables caused some citizens to test the soil and climate and see what it could do toward growing fruit. Apple, plum and cherry trees were planted. A few years' time were required to allow the young trees to attain a fruit-growing age, and then another prophecy of the early settler was proved false, and it was shown that Alpena county had no superior as a

place where apples, plums and cherries could be grown in great abundance, and of a superior quality. Strawberries are a native crop, growing wild in great abundance, but the gardener soon supplanted them with choice cultivated plants.

For fifteen successive years the Alpena County Agricultural Society has held an exhibition, and every one has fully demonstrated, by the magnificent exhibits, that no better vegetables can be grown in the United States than can, and have been for years, be produced in the gardens of Alpena county.

The fruit orchards are yet young, but the last few years the production of apples and plums has been large, and has reduced to a considerable extent the imports of such fruits. In the fall of 1892 the fine quality of the crab apples exhibited at the county fair attracted the attention of outsiders, and resulted in several hundred bushels being exported to other cities.

Plums have proved to be a crop that pays good interest on the money and time invested. One orchard, in 1892, brought its owner over one hundred dollars per acre, and several hundred bushels of the luscious fruit were exported to Detroit. The attention of citizens interested in the agricultural growth of Alpena county has been attracted for some years to the growth of plums. Hundreds of trees have been planted and are beginning to return a rich reward. So thoroughly have many of the citizens been convinced in regard to the profitableness of plum culture that arrangements were made in 1892 for having 20,000 plum trees shipped to Alpena in 1893, to be planted at various parts of the county. In a few years Alpena will supply the markets of many cities of the State with plums. In a few years more the crop of apples will more than supply the home market, and hundreds of bushels will be exported to the upper peninsula of Michigan. The wild fruit crop is also a very valuable one. It consists of huckleberries, cranberries, blackberries and raspberries. Every season thousands of bushels of such wild fruit are exported to Detroit, and find a ready sale.

The experience of the last twenty years has proved that the soil of Alpena will produce as much grain to the acre as will any other part of Michigan. The standard and unfailing crops of farm produce grown are wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat, rye, garden corn, timothy, clover and peas. The soil is fertile, and the climate is all that can be desired for the growth of such products.

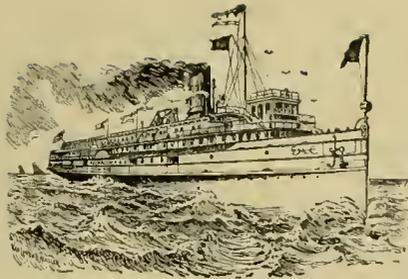




CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

(From a Photograph by Wm. Boulton.)

## ALPENA'S FUTURE.



IN THE foregoing chapters have been related some of Alpena's advantages, showing her history, what her citizens have done in the past, what they are doing to-day, what her resources are, and the bright future there is in store for her.

Nature has done much for Alpena. She has been given the best harbor on the Great Lakes; her climate is an healthy one; the soil is fruitful, and responds to the labors of the agriculturist with generous crops; immense forests of hardwood and other timber yet await the ax of the woodsman; the stone quarries are inexhaustible; the finest mineral spring in the world is right in the heart of the city, encased in one of the most handsome and conveniently arranged bath houses in the country; nearly all the modern improvements are found in the city; the schools are equal to the best in the land; the finest palace steamers on the lakes land at her wharves; the mail, the railroad, the telephone, gas and electric light are at the call of her children; she is the metropolis of northern Michigan, without a rival, and the energy of her sons and daughters will maintain her in her present proud position.

There is one thing more to be noted, because it possesses a gift to the future of inestimable value. It is her admirable water power privileges. The great motive power of the future is electricity. Steam, as the ruling king, is soon to be deposed, and its place taken by the young giant, electricity. To generate the electrical power cheaply, it is necessary that water power be obtained. That portion of the

country that possesses good water power will become a great manufacturing center. The necessity of coal to make steam will no longer exist. Water will be confined with dams, and liberated as needed to create the electrical power, which can be transmitted for miles over a slender wire, and made to turn the wheels of mechanical industry.

This vast natural advantage Alpena has in abundance, and right adjacent to the city. The rapids in Thunder Bay river, only one mile from the mouth, have already been harnessed and made to work for man's benefit. A few miles further up the river is another rapids that can be used to store the giant power. About seven miles from the city the river has already a second dam. This water power of Thunder Bay river, even as it now is, could supply electrical power sufficient to drive all the mills now in Alpena, and leave an abundance of power for other purposes. The time is coming when this great agent will be harnessed and made to drive the mills and factories of Alpena.

With all these great advantages, why should any sane person doubt the future prosperity of Alpena? Are men fools that they will cast aside the jewels that nature has so bountifully bestowed, and run after will o' the wisps? Not the slightest danger exists that the energetic sons and daughters of Alpena will do such an insane act. They will continue on the path of prosperity, blazed out by their fathers, and when they resign in favor of their children, will leave an Alpena as much greater and better than it is now, as Alpena of to-day exceeds the Alpena of thirty years ago.





ALPENA THIRTY YEARS AGO.

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